

Downy mildew (*Plasmopara*) of *Impatiens*

This disease has been found in several states in the U.S. this year (2004). It has been known from the U.S. for many years but generally hasn't been a problem. Last year it was found for the first time in the United Kingdom and caused significant losses. Early detection is important in preventing losses. Another downy mildew found on *Impatiens* is *Bremiella sphaerosperma*.

Plasmopara obducens

Symptomatic leaves of *Impatiens* sp. infected with *Plasmopara obducens*. Typically leaves are mottled with no distinct leaf lesions whereas *Bremiella sphaerosperma* causes distinct leaf spots.

The conidophores of *P. obducens* are mainly unbranched, straight, with fairly stiff branches and branchlets while those of *Bremiella sphaerosperma* are branched, flexuose and with generally curved branches and branchlets.

Reference: Constantinescu, O. 1991. *Bremiella sphaerosperma* sp. nov. and *Plasmopara borrieriae* comb. nov. Mycologia 83:473-479.

Additional information and photos can be found here:

Hausbeck, M. 2004. <http://www.plantpathology.msu.edu/labs/hausbeck/hausbeckDownyMildew.htm>

Suggested citation: Palm, M.E., Systematic Mycology and Microbiology Laboratory, ARS, USDA. 2004. Invasive Fungi. Downy mildew (*Plasmopara*) of *Impatiens*. Retrieved October 6, 2007, from <http://nt.ars-grin.gov/sbmlweb/fungi/index.cfm>.

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Leaves are mottled with no distinct leaf lesions



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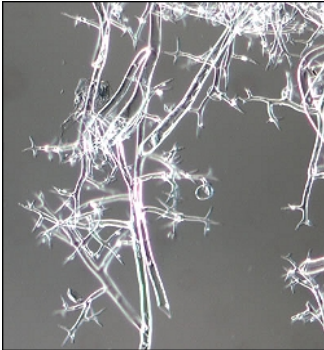
Undersurface of Impatiens leaf with abundant sporangiophores and sporangia



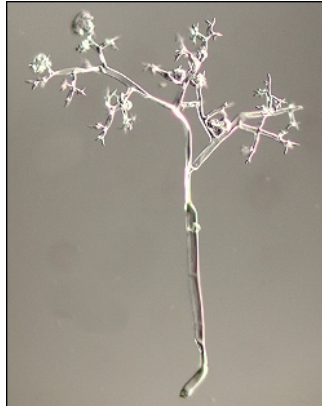
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Sporangiophore of *P. obducens*. Note the mainly unbranched, straight, fairly stiff branches and branchlets



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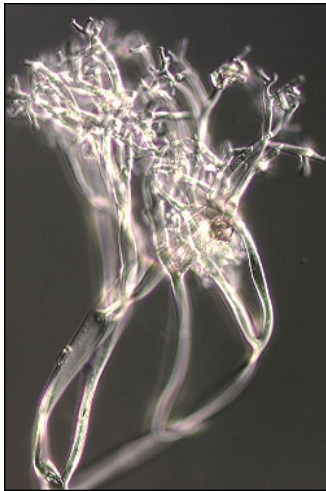
Sporangiophore of *P. obducens*. Note the mainly unbranched, straight, fairly stiff branches and branchlets



Sporangiophore of *Bremiella sphaerosperma*. Note the branched, flexuose and generally curved branches and branchlets



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